

South Carolina's

# Young Farmers & Future Farmers

Magazine

Vol.41 No. 4

25 cents

Spring 1992

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FRANK R. STOVER  
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29123





## South Carolina's Young Farmers and Future Farmers Magazine

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine (ISSN-0038-3201) is published quarterly by the South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Association, 922 Rutledge Building, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Subscription price is 25 cents per year for members and 50 cents per year for non-members.  
Second class postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

SPRING 1992 VOL. #1/NO. 4  
(ISSN: 0038-3201)

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

Publication and Editorial Offices  
922 Rutledge Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

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Editor-in-Chief ..... Ed Crosby  
Editor ..... Caroline Wernitz  
Art Director ..... George Inabinet



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Cover Photo: Larry Spotts of Spotts Tractor Company in Prosperity presents a brand new Case International tractor to Young Farmer President Bill Nance. Spotts is the local Case International Dealer.	

# Notes from the Executive Secretary


## To FFA MEMBERS

By J. Earl Frick, Jr.

The Cherry Grove FFA Camp located at North Myrtle Beach will open for camping on Monday, June 1, and will remain available for FFA members through July 3. The camp will not operate June 8-12 since the State FFA Convention will be in progress. The camping program offers an exciting week of recreation, education, leadership training and fellowship. FFA members from throughout the state can meet together, make new friends, and participate in a week of fun-filled and educational opportunities. The camp fee remains at \$30 for the week.

The state FFA Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers is scheduled at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp, June 23-26. National FFA Secretary Mike Stevenson of Hobson, Montana is scheduled to attend and help conduct the conference. This year marks the first time in a number of years that a

National FFA Officer has been able to schedule attendance at our Leadership Conference. Also scheduled to conduct sessions on personal leadership development is Mr. Tony Hoyt, Program Specialist for Leadership with the National FFA Organization. This conference will be one that you will not want to miss. Have your advisor register your chapter right away by sending your deposit to the S.C. Association of FFA. The total cost for the Leadership Conference remains at \$24 for the four-day event.

We look forward to seeing you at the Cherry Grove FFA Camp this summer for regular camping and the Leadership Conference. Call Mr. H. C. Edens, FFA Camp Director, or any of the State Agricultural Education staff if you have questions regarding the camping program. 


## To YOUNG FARMERS

By Steve Willis, Executive Secretary


The 44th Annual State Young Farmer Convention held in January 1992 at The Sheraton Hotel in Charleston was an outstanding success. Attendance was good this year with almost 300 Young Farmers, wives, and guests participating. The Executive Committee attributed this to a more favorable market and attitude in the agricultural industry. Sponsors, which are a very important part of the program, were given great exposure, and attendees were able to participate in the tours on Saturday. As a result of your surveys, we will return next year to one of the best resort hotels of the Grand Strand--the Radisson/Kingston Plantation, featuring all suites, indoor swimming and racquetball, and very reasonable rates. Mark this on your calendar now -- you will not want to miss it!

As we start the new year, the officers have set as their goal increased participation of the membership. They also have committed to visiting chapters to promote our programs. The Executive Committee, based on comments at the Convention, is considering more changes in the Convention format and in the contests/awards area.

Chapters should have already submitted their membership rosters. Rosters were due back to the State Association no later than February 29, 1992. Teachers that do not have a chapter now should organize one. A Young Farmer Chapter at the school can be very valuable asset to the entire program as well as the community. It is also the best way to satisfy one of the requirements of a twelve-month program.

This is a busy time of the year for farmers and teachers alike. Farmers are trying to get their land ready and their crops planted. Teachers are beginning their contests and planning for the end of the year. Most of the events for the year will be planned in the first quarter of 1992. One of the highlights will be the Summer Tour. Plans are already in place for the Britton's Neck Chapter to host this event August 7-8 near Marion, SC. The hotel headquarters will be at the Comfort Inn in Marion on Highway 76. Jerry Pace and his chapter are planning a great Summer Tour, so make your plans now to attend and participate in this event. 

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS...

The South Carolina Association of FFA Chapters would like to thank the following Outdoor Advertising companies for their support in the national 1992 FFA advertising campaign. Through supplying advertising space on their billboards, these companies displayed their fervent commitment by "taking the initiative" to insure Leadership for a Growing Planet! 

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## And Now A Word From The President . . .

The Annual South Carolina FFA Convention always serves as an exciting finale for the students of agricultural education in our state. Once again, our state leaders will have their eyes turned to Clemson University this June 10-12, as FFA members from across the state gather for the 65th South Carolina FFA Convention.

Our convention will be highlighted by the attendance and participation of National FFA President Lee Thurber from Roca, Nebraska. Other exciting speakers will include Jeff Conley, motivational speaker from Dallas, Texas, who will give the keynote address on June 11, and local comedian Frank Hayes.

Many of the 400 members expected to attend this year's

convention will compete in various judging contest including agricultural mechanics, farm business management, floriculture, nursery/landscape, public speaking, FFA Creed speaking, and parliamentary procedure. When FFA members compare their skills with those of others in this state-wide competitive setting, they learn to appreciate the fundamental values of hard work, dedication, and teamwork.

Other FFA members in attendance will serve as official delegates to the convention. Delegates have the opportunity to vote on important issues affecting our state association, as well as to serve on committees which discuss specific aspects of state FFA operations, and to present their

ideas and suggestions. Delegates to the South Carolina FFA Convention will play a critical role in making decisions affecting our state association.

Our state convention is also a wonderful learning experience for those who are not competing in state contests or serving as delegates. This is your opportunity to prove to your fellow chapter members and advisor that you are a responsible FFA member. You will gain interesting ideas and insights from other members across the state, while heightening your awareness of the need for parliamentary procedure and democratic leadership.

Whether you are a curious greenhand, or a mature fourth-year FFA member, the 65th Annual South Carolina FFA Convention has something to offer you. This is your chance to bring an exciting close to an enlightening year of agricultural education and FFA activities. 🚗

## Thurber (Lee, Not James) To Attend State FFA Convention

National FFA President Lee Thurber, who represents over 382,000 FFA members across the country and internationally, will get a taste of the Carolina mountains when he visits Clemson in June for the South Carolina FFA Convention to be held the 10th through the 12th of that month.

Thurber is busy enjoying a one year leave-of-absence from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he is a recipient of a national FFA scholarship. Upon completion of his undergraduate studies in agribusiness, he plans to pursue a master's degree in a

related field.

Thurber served as Nebraska's state FFA President in 1990-1991, and was a state winner in both the extemporaneous and prepared public speaking contests before winning the presidency last November at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, MO. The skilled orator will be the keynote speaker at the South Carolina gathering, and plans to address the convention on the issues of strengthening agricultural education programs and increasing participation in FFA-sponsored activities on every level. 🚗



FFA National President, Lee Thurber, keynote speaker at this year's SC FFA Convention.



## Mississippi "Branches Out" In Wake Of Hugo

The State of Mississippi recently presented a gift of 2,000 live oak trees to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to aid in the state-wide reforestation project taking place in the wake of Hurricane Hugo. As many will remember too vividly, Hurricane Hugo decimated South Carolina forests with winds in excess of 135 miles an hour on the night of September 21, 1989.

One-fourth of the 2,000 trees have been planted in Sumter County as a result of the efforts of the "Building Our American Communities" program at the FFA chapters

of Hillcrest, Mayewood, and Furman High Schools.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is presently storing those trees that have yet to be planted. These oaks are bare root seedlings approximately thirty inches tall. Trees are available free of charge to civic groups and other interested parties on a first-come, first-serve basis. Anyone who would like to have some of the trees delivered for planting, may contact the Hillcrest Department of Agriculture at 499-3341 for more information. 🚚



*Furman Advisor Drefus Williams, Agriculture Commissioner Les Tindall, and Hillcrest Advisor Billy Keels are on hand for the tree delivery.*



*Advisor Drefus Williams and Manolito Sinkler of Furman High School display one of the oak seedlings.*

## Aquaculture Program Underway At Pendleton High School

Pendleton High School's Aquaculture Program got a enormous boost as it stocked its first Tilapia fingerlings on December 13. The program is one of the few in the state, instructing students in what may be the up and coming science in the field of agricultural studies.

In its planning stages, practically every academic department at Pendleton High School was involved in bringing the aquaculture program to the upstate school. Many teachers now plan their weekly lessons around the new addition to take advantage of the access to "hands-on" experiences. During National Vocational Week, instructors from the vocational department visited the English classes of the ninth and tenth grade students to explain the science of aquaculture and to encourage the students to take advantage of Pendleton's newest educational facilities.

Al Gray, FFA advisor at Pendleton High School, says the support the aquaculture department has received has been overwhelming. "This program has developed a lot of interest among the school board members and the local residents," he said. "Without their support, this program would not have even gotten off the ground." 🚚

## Top Teachers Vie For National Honor

Four of the state's top advisors of FFA Chapters have been nominated for the title of National FFA Agriscience Teacher of the Year. Jerry Pace of Britton's Neck High School in Gresham, Cordova's George Ulmer of Edisto High School, Benjamin J. Kolb of the Beaufort-Jasper Career Education Center in Ridgeland, and Pendleton's own Al Gray of Pendleton High School were all nominated by Hugh P. McClimon, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education, for their contributions to their school's respective FFA programs. All these extraordinary educators were given until July 15th to return their applications, after which the national winners will be announced.

The Agriscience Teacher of the Year award program annually recognizes instructors who emphasize the new technology of agriscience in their classroom. Areas of scholastic concentration include biology, environmental studies, engineering and the growing field of agribusiness. Names of outstanding teachers are initially submitted by state officers in agricultural education. The top applicant from each state is then chosen for national competition by the National FFA Organization. The top four teachers nationally receive \$500 in cash, a plaque commemorating their achievement, and a \$1,000 grant for their schools for use in purchasing agriscience equipment.

The competition is sponsored nationwide by the Ford Motor Company Fund and PCS Sales as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. 🚚



# Students From Pendleton "SHOW STOPPERS" Prove To Be Real . . .

Two students at Pendleton High School are getting a different kind of education this year—one that can't be gained in the classroom. Tonya and Sonya Riser are spending their days traveling across the country, appearing in many of the regional and national

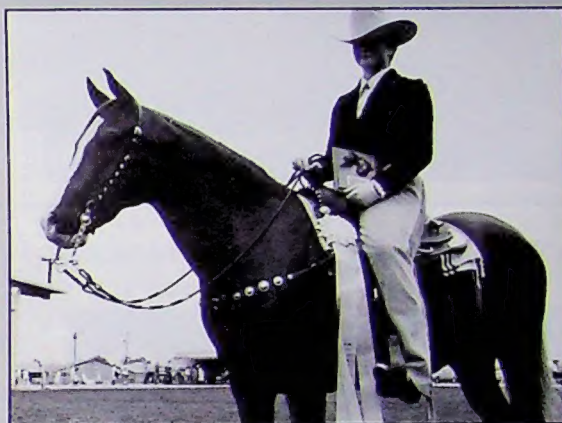
Arabian shows that are held throughout the year.

The sisters have competed everywhere from Alabama to North Carolina and their travels will continue in the coming months. They've even taken awards home to the mountains of South Carolina from many of

the competitions, making them the pride of Pendleton High School. The ladies' FFA advisor, Al Gray, said of the two, "These girls go to these national meets and are always competitive. We at Pendleton are very proud of what they've accomplished." 🐾



*Sonya Riser clears a jump at the Herman Field Trials in Tryon, NC.*

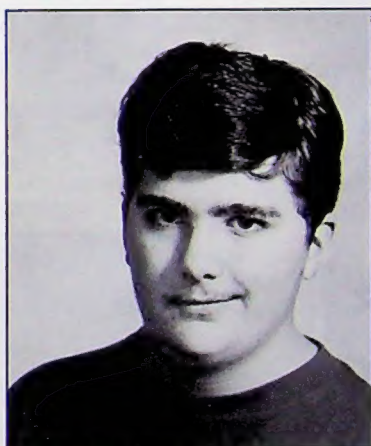


*Pendleton High School's Tonya Riser shows off awards won at an Arabian show held in Alabama.*

## Byrnes Student is . . .

*Up with  
Agriculture  
WINNER*

*"We have to  
make sure that  
He (God) knows  
that He gave it  
(our planet) to  
the right people."*



*Jeremiah Lee Greene - Age 15, 10th grade.*

Jeremiah Greene, a 15-year-old student at James F. Byrnes High School was named as best in the state in an essay contest sponsored by the FFA New Horizons magazine. The contest challenged students from across the state to think about what they could do

to preserve the environment, while keeping with the theme of the essay, "Up With Agriculture".

Greene, a resident of Lyman, received a \$50.00 cash award for his entry in the writing contest, which was sponsored by ICI Seeds in conjunction with the FFA Foundation.

In his essay on the environment, Greene wrote, "My role in preserving the environment is making people aware of how uncaring they are about it. There are people who do some things to help, but this isn't always enough."

"Collecting cans and/or newspapers won't solve the problem itself. People need to stop using non-biodegradable products. Harmful chemicals shouldn't be dumped into our lakes and rivers. The people living here should treat the earth like they want to be treated."

"Everyone should remember that the earth is a precious gift from God. We have to make sure that He knows that He gave it to the right people." 🐾



# YOUNG FARMER CONVENTION



*Morris Jones, guest speaker, entertains the crowd.*

The 44th annual gathering of the state's association of Young Farmers took place January 17th and 18th in historic Charleston at the scenic Sheraton Hotel located on the banks of the Ashley River. Over 300 young farmers and their wives attended the event, designed to recognize their contributions and efforts in the agricultural industry.

Upon their arrival, the guests were treated to an opening reception at Exhibit Hall, which featured displays from several of the event's sponsors. The Young Farmer Banquet followed, at which the different contest award winners were announced, the names of whom follow this article. Guest speaker was Morris Jones of Saluda, SC, a regional comedian.

Saturday's activities included a continental breakfast sponsored by Coburg Dairy, Inc. and the presentation of the annual business reports. The luncheon that followed featured recognition of the convention's VIPs—the sponsors and contributors. Speakers included Will Harman, State President of the FFA, Bill Nance of the York Chapter, and Rusty Thompson, President of the National Young Farmers Educational Association.

Charleston's largest industry, like so many other places in South Carolina, is tourism; and many of the Young Farmers took advantage of their free time to do some sightseeing. Afternoon tours of the "Holy City" were an attraction for most, with trips to The Battery and the famous downtown market area listed by those in attendance as the most popular attractions.

The convention's most coveted awards were announced Saturday night. Presentation of such merits at the Outstanding Service Award, Chapter Contest Awards and the prestigious "Young Farmer of the Year" Award were all given at the convention ending banquet. State President Charles Edens was pleasantly surprised when he was named as Young Farmer of the Year, receiving a cash award and engraved sterling silver bowl from Marty Coates of the Pee Dee Farm Credit Service.

The evening's awards banquet was hardly the highlight of the day, however; as most young farmers chose to attend the annual Casino Party and Auction for a little late night fun before returning to their respective districts the next morning. 🚗



*The newly-elected officers take a moment to pose for the camera. (L-R): Charles Edens, Gene Forrest, Mickey Johnson, Bill Nance, Andrew Carter, and Ronnie Myers. (Not pictured: Steve Currence)*



*Landy Weathers of Bowman accepts a Chapter Contest Award from YF President Charles Edens.*



# HELD IN LOWCOUNTRY

## Casino Party!



The ever-popular Casino Night followed the evening's awards banquet.



Dan Poston of Marion and Jerry and Jean Pace of Britton's Neck gamble the night away.

## 1991 AWARD WINNERS SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG FARMERS

### YOUNG FARMER OF THE YEAR (Sponsored by Farm Credit Services)

Charles Edens

#### Others Receiving Awards

(District I) Rex Bates  
(District II) David Wilson  
(District IV) Mark W. Nettles  
Steve Currence

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Watson Dorn  
Charlie Hugh

### CHAPTER PRESIDENT AWARDS (Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Co.)

(District I) Nancy McCannon  
(District II) Jimmy McGill [State Winner]  
(District III) Mickey Johnson  
(District IV) L. Andy Gunter

### CHAPTER CONTEST AWARDS (Sponsored by Gold Kist, Inc.)

(District I) Saluda Chapter [State Winner]  
(District II) Hickory Grove Chapter  
(District III) Hillcrest Chapter  
(District IV) Bowman Chapter

### FARM SERVICE CENTER AWARD (Sponsored by NAPA, Inc.)

John Felder  
Second Place Award  
James W. McKee

### FIVE ACRE COTTON CONTEST AWARD (Sponsored by Mixon Seed Company, Stoneville Pedigree Seed Company and Delta and Pine Land Seeds)

Mickey Johnson  
Second Place Award  
William James

### FOREST MANAGEMENT AWARD (Sponsored by Georgia Pacific Corp. and Stone Container Corp.)

John F. Cuttino

### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AWARDS (Sponsored by Central Soya, Inc. and ConAgra, Inc.)

#### Beef Production Contest

Brad Forrest

#### Second Place Award

Steve Currence

#### Dairy Production Contest

Glenn N. Crouch

#### Second Place Award

Jerry Lee Anderson

#### Swine Production Contest

Andrew M. Carter

#### Second Place Award

Melvin L. Crum

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS (Sponsored by Duke Power Company, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company, and Carolina Power and Light Company)

(District I) Carlton Pitts  
(District II) David Wilson  
(District III) Buddy Rivers  
(District IV) Richard Rentz [State Winner]

### NON-IRRIGATED SOYBEAN AWARDS (Sponsored by The Archer Daniels Midland Co.)

(District I) Carlton Pitts  
(District II) Ricky Kneecce  
(District III) Charles T. Edens  
(District IV) John Whisenhunt [State Winner]

### IRRIGATED CORN AWARDS (Sponsored by AgraTech Seeds, DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics, Delta and Pine Land Seeds, and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.)

(District II) Ricky Kneecce  
(District III) Charles T. Edens  
(District IV) William Jameson [State Winner]

### NON-IRRIGATED CORN AWARDS (Sponsored by AgraTech Seeds, DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics, Delta and Pine Land Seeds, and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.)

(District II) Jeff Lucas  
(District III) Charles T. Edens  
(District IV) Clark Stillingner [State Winner]



Tony Jones of SCE & G presents the Energy Efficiency Award to Richard Rentz of District IV, accompanied here by his wife.



Central-Soya representative Frank McLeod presents the second-place award for beef production to Steve Currence.



## It's "All In The Family" For 1992 Farmer Of The Year

Charles Edens has farmed the same land for almost 20 years with his father and two brothers, Hank and Mark. And he certainly can use their help—their large, sprawling farm encompasses 3,250 acres of land near Dalzell.

It's a large responsibility for someone who readily admits that he has grown up quite a bit since he attended Clemson University back in the 1970's. As a matter of fact, he spent a great deal of time in Tigertown, taking nine years to get his agricultural degree. "I guess I majored in fraternity first," laughs Edens. Of course, it wasn't all fun and games—Edens says that during his first three years at Clemson, a drought hit the South Carolina area and his family took the brunt of the damage. "Those first three years, we really were in a financial hole," he remembers.

Edens family rebounded from the damage, though; and what a comeback they made, eventually increasing their acreage from 1500 to its current level! The Edens really run a

"full-service" farm, harvesting 1,000 acres of corn, 800 acres of soybeans and 300 acres of wheat. They also are in the peanut and grain business and dabble in fertilizer and equipment sales as well.

South Carolina's Farmer of the Year is well-acquainted with the Young Farmer program in the state and the advantages it gives its members. Charles Edens has been State President, on the National Education Development Committee, and was District Vice-President for 2 years, among other honors. The title he may like best, though, is that of "Dad" to daughter Brienne and son Chad. Edens says he enjoys helping wife Bobbi out with their children as much as possible with their homework and various other projects. He is also involved with his local PTA and Cub Scout organization.

Edens lists as his hobbies quail hunting and weight lifting, but it is his farming that has provided him with an ability to profit from his hobbies as well. Through profits from his "full-time" occupation, Edens was able to open a fully-licensed gym and weight room that he owns and operates.

It is this type of managerial expertise that led committee members to choose Edens as Farmer of the Year. "Those abilities are the only way a young farmer can survive these days," said Hugh McClimon, director of agricultural education for the S.C. Education Department, which handles the Young Farmer Awards Program. 🚗



*Charles Edens receives the award for State Young Farmer of the Year.*

## Cuttino Receives Forest Management Award

Orangeburg's John Cuttino was named by the South Carolina Association of Young Farmers as Forest Manager of the Year at the annual Young Farmer Convention in Charles-

ton. A District Ranger with the State Forestry Commission, Cuttino was given the statewide award in recognition of his land management skills and his commitment to the environment.

"Many people are not aware that there are ways the forest can be managed to promote wildlife habitat and make the forest environment better," says Cuttino. "Improving the forest will usually give the landowner a greater financial return, not to mention improving the overall aesthetics of the property."

For his dedication to the forestry industry, Cuttino received a plaque and a cash award from the sponsors of the contest, Georgia-Pacific, Inc. and Stone Container, Inc.

Information on the 1992 Forest Management Award can be received through Young Farmer Chapters across the state or by contacting Rhett Bickley at the South Carolina Forestry Commission at (803) 737-8800. 🚗



*Pat Lee of Stone Container Co., Inc. presents the Young Farmer Forest Management Award to John Cuttino of Orangeburg.*





*Clemson's Master Gardener Program provides valuable information for home and commercial gardeners.*

## B. J. Skelton Career Center — Hosts — Lawn and Garden Exhibition

The day was perfectly sunny, the temperature on the mild side for February...in the 70's. What better day to throw a lawn party for over 300 of your closest friends and neighbors? That's just what the agriculture mechanics class at the B. J. Skelton Career Center did on February 11th, hosting their second annual lawn and garden exposition complete with a barbeque on the grounds on the Easley campus.

Teacher Eddie Johnson was responsible for the cooking duties, roasting two hogs provided by the event's sponsors. Six lawn and garden equipment manufacturers participated in the show, displaying their latest wares for the over 300 members of the Easley community that came out to support the expo. John Deere, Scag, Toro, Troy Bilt, Stihl, Airens, and Tri-County Rental all brought equipment for field demonstrations.

Nearby Clemson University was involved as a participant, providing Extension Service agents from their Horticulture program to answer questions from local residents on such subjects as pruning and lawn care. Also on hand were members of Clemson's Master Gardener Program, which instructs students in gardening sciences, who then in turn train others in return for their education. All those with green and not-so-green thumbs were able to gain insight into what it takes to produce a fruitful garden.

The students in Johnson's Agricultural Mechanics class were responsible for setting up the event, from the planning stages, to constructing display tents, to aiding the company representatives put together equipment that was shipped to the event marked "Ready to Assemble."

Johnson says the exposition has grown so large that next year other departments of the school plan to become involved. Classes in Building Construction and Auto Mechanics are already working on displays in those areas for the 1993 show. "This has become a good opportunity for the community to get involved with the school program and for the students to work with the different equipment suppliers. It's a situation where everyone benefits." 🚗



*FFA members keep close watch on the barbeque!*

## Cherry Grove Set To Welcome Lots Of "Happy Campers"

Dates for the annual Summer FFA Camps have been set and students from across the state are ready to hit the beach! A \$30.00 registration fee is required for the camps, which are slated for June 1st through 5th, June 15th through 19th, and June 29th through July 3rd.

The annual South Carolina FFA Leadership Camp is another highlight of the summer season. Chapter leaders from throughout the state come together every year to receive information on thinking skills and conducting meetings, not to mention enjoy a little fun in the sun! The 1992 Leadership Seminar will take place June 23rd through the 26th at a cost of \$24.00 per student.

Further information on the camps can be received by contacting the local FFA advisor, or by calling the Department of Agricultural Education in Columbia at 253-4025. 🚗



## HILLCREST-DALZELL TRIUMPHS AT FOREST PRODUCTS HARVESTING DAY

Capitalizing on the strength of individual medalist Chris Player and second-place award winner Ed Sutherland, Hillcrest High School of Dalzell took the top trophy at the state FFA Forest Products Harvesting Day held in Hillcrest's backyard of Manchester State Forest outside Sumter. The contest, which was held on April 4th, pitted students from four high schools across South Carolina in five areas of competition: Calculating saw logs, estimating standing saw timber, thinning operations, estimating standing pulpwood, and live tree identification.


Player finished first in individual competition with 469 points out of a possible 500 total. His teammate, Ed Sutherland, followed closely behind with 424 points, and Chris Latham of Crescent High School in Iva rounded out the top three with 416 points. Player and Sutherland were joined by teammates Nat Bradford and Rov Freed in winning the overall trophy.

Students from Hillcrest, Crescent, Walterboro, and Andrew Jackson (Kershaw) High Schools vied for the team title in the annual contest which is sponsored by Westvaco, International Paper Company, Stone Container and Bowater, Inc. The sponsors provide two \$1,000 scholarships in forest harvesting each year and also are responsible for all cash awards, trophies, and last, but certainly not least, LUNCH! This year, the large spread was put on by McCabe's Barbecue in nearby Sumter.

Hillcrest Advisor Billy Keels admitted his team had been in training for their victory. "These fellows have been practicing for two weeks. We've even worked with the forestry department to identify trees," said Keels after his

team's runaway win.

Westvaco representative Mel Hinson has served as Chairman of the event for the past three years. "We sponsors want to give these students a good foundation to work from in the future. Through this competition, we are able to promote the harvesting of forest products and to instill in the students minds that there is a profession in logging," he said in summarizing the event's importance. "The pulp and paper

companies benefit as well, though. Through hands-on experience like this we are able to save on training for many of our future employees," he continued. "Some of these students actually go on to work with our loggers during the summer, so everyone benefits." 



Westvaco's Mel Hinson presents the winner's trophy to the team from Hillcrest-Dalzell; Chris Player, Nat Bradford, Ed Sutherland, Rov Freed, and advisor Billy Keels.


## B. J. Skelton Students Bag A "DEERE"



B. J. Skelton students are never ones that look a gift horse...horsepower, that is...in the mouth.

Students in the Agricultural Mechanics class at the B. J. Skelton Career Center found out that it truly does pay to help out others. The John Deere Company, in appreciation for all the assistance it received from the students during the Environmental Open House, donated a new 17 horse power engine to the school to give the class a hands-on teaching aide.

John Deere has been a part of

the exposition since its inception and has been supportive of the school's efforts to enlarge the show to appeal to a wider audience. The gift of the engine went above and beyond the call of duty, according to Eddie Johnson, FFA Advisor at B. J. Skelton. "Donations of this kind enable me to teach students on the newest state-of-the-art equipment on the market," said Johnson. 



## Lexington ATC Takes Soil Judging Crown



(L-R): Von Snelgrove of the SC Conservation Districts; First-Place team winners Brett Bannister, Brian Derrick, Jason Fournier, Marcus Smith, and Advisor Tommy Harmon of Lexington ATC; and Jim Ownby of SCE & G.

The students began arriving early on the Saturday morning of March 21st for a 9:30 (UGH!) registration time at the 37th annual State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Contest. Once everyone was awake enough to understand the rules of the meet, however; the competition got underway on a beautiful day in Blackville. When all was said and done, it was the Lexington Applied Technology Center which had turned in a performance almost as perfect as the weather. The

students from Lexington County garnered a total 572 of a possible 720 points, winning top honors and an expense paid trip to the national soil judging competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from May 5th through the 7th.

Latta High School in Dillon County was awarded second place honors with points totaling 563. The team members, Ray McPhatter, Michael Medlin, Scotty Gasque and Tim Jacobs will also receive an expense paid trip to the nationals, which they will attend with advisor Keith Cox.

Brett Bannister of the Lexington team was the individual medalist with 216 of a possible 240 points. In addition to his trip to Oklahoma, he also received \$450.00 in spending money. He will be joined in the great wild west by fellow team members Brian Derrick, Jason Fournier, Marcus Smith and advisor Tommy Harmon.

Recipient of an engraved gold watch for his second place finish was Chris Hicks of the McBee chapter, who totalled 203 points in the competition, which is staged by the Office of Occupational

Education along with the State FFA Association.

The top district honors went to the Abbeville High School chapter from the Piedmont area; to Lexington ATC, the obvious winner of the Northern/Midlands area; to the Latta students from the Pee Dee region; and to the Wagener-Salley group from the Charleston district. All district champs received a plaque to display in their schools' trophy case.

Lunch at the event was provided by the event's sponsors, Carolina Power and Light Co., Duke Power Co., SCE & G, the S.C. Association of Conservation Districts and the S.C. Conservation Districts Foundation. These companies have recognized the need to assist teachers of Agricultural Education in providing training in soil identification, land use and the most effective soil treatment. 🐾



The rules of competition always make interesting discussion before any contest.

## In Memoriam

Dr. John Hansford Rodgers, retired department head and professor emeritus of Agricultural Education at Clemson University, passed away February 3, 1992 at the age of 69.

Born in Lucknow, the highly-distinguished professor was a veteran of World War II, attended MIT, and received degrees from Clemson and Ohio State University. Before returning to his alma mater, he taught at Pleasant Hill High School and Virginia Tech.

He was a consultant to the University of South Carolina, the State Region 5 Education Laboratory, Virginia State College, Ohio State, and the Regional Education Laboratory of the Carolinas and Virginia.

Among his numerous associations were connections to the American Vocational Association, the American Association of

Teacher Educators in Agriculture, the National Commission on Teachers Education and Professional Standards, and the American Vocational Association Advisory Council. He also served on the state FFA Foundation Board for more than a decade for which he received the Honorary State Farmer Degree from the associations in South Carolina and Virginia.

Other awards include the Honorary American Farmer Degree from the Clemson University FFA Chapter, the Outstanding Service Award presented by the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, the Distinguished Service Award given by the State Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association, and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Southern Regional Agricultural

Education Conference. He is also recognized in the National Register of Prominent Americans and International Notables, the International Platform Association, the Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in American Education, Leaders in Education, Men of Achievement, and Outstanding Educators of America.

Upon his retirement as head of the agricultural education department at Clemson, he was awarded the university's highest honor, that of the Outstanding Service Award, recognizing his many years of contribution to the advancement of his chosen profession.

Dr. Rodgers is survived by his wife, Connie Turner Rodgers of Clemson, three sons, a daughter, his brother, four grandchildren and a great-grandchild. 🐾



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## South Carolina's Young Farmer & Future Farmer Magazine

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Future Farmer Magazine (ISSN-0038-3201) is published quarterly by the South Carolina Young Farmer and South Carolina Future Farmer associations, 912 Rutledge Building, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Subscription price is 25 cents per year for members and 50 cents per year for non-members.

Second class postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

**SPRING 1993 VOL#43/No.2**  
(ISSN: 0038-3201)

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**On the cover:** The Outstanding Sophomore in Agriculture, Tracie Connelley, participates in hands-on activities in an Ag Mechanics class with Jane Sandler of Blacksburg and Robert Bland of West Point, VA.

## Notes from the Executive Secretary

### To FFA Members

by J. Earl Frick, Jr.

Another school year is complete, and the summer months offer additional and unique opportunities for FFA members. If you and your chapter members have not made a commitment to attend your Cherry Grove FFA Camp at North Myrtle Beach, you should call to see if space might still be available. Mr. H. C. Edens, our Cherry Grove FFA Camp Director, can let you know if any vacancy is left. His number is 249-1983. Mr. Edens does an excellent job at planning and managing our Cherry Grove FFA Camp facilities and the summer camping program. Some chapters plan weekend visits to the camp during the fall or spring, and Mr. Edens will be delighted to work with you to make your stay enjoyable.

A number of chapter officers utilize meetings or retreats during the summer months to plan the chapter's Program of Activities for the new school year. Every chapter needs a Program of Activities to serve as the "road map" for setting chapter

goals and charting the course for reaching those goals. A Program of Activities develops leadership skills of FFA members by involving them in group meetings to encourage teamwork. The Program of Activities provides a means of evaluating and improving chapter activities. Make sure your chapter has a written plan for the new school year.

A special thanks is due to the 1992-1993 State FFA Officers, FFA members and advisors for helping make the past year a success for the FFA. We have been through times that required all of us to pull together to make sure that our FFA organization continues to prosper and be successful. You are a member of one of the greatest youth organizations in the world, so participate in the activities that have been planned for you. Develop your leadership skills that will help you be successful with your chosen occupation in agriculture, agribusiness or related field. Best wishes for a successful year. 🐾

## To Young Farmers

by: Steve Willis

The 1993 Summer Tour is scheduled for July 23-24 in Laurens SC. Stewart Glenn and the Hickory Tavern Chapter have pulled out the stops to make this a memorable event. Registration is set for 4:00 pm on Friday the 23rd at the hotel. The headquarters hotel is the Quality Inn located at the intersection of I-26 and Highway 76 near Laurens. You should have received a mailout from the chapter detailing registration and accommodations. Be sure to mention the YF Summer Tour when calling the hotel at 833-5558 when making reservations. Costs of rooms are \$32.00 single/double. These should be made no later than July 10.

Some of the stops are a tour of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center located nearby with a meal provided Friday evening by Wal-Mart Inc., CBI Catering, and Grainger, Inc. On Saturday we will leave the hotel at 8:00 am and start our

tour at the beef and dairy operation of the Thornwell Orphanage. We will see the operations of Vulcan Materials, Inc., visit some race horse training stables and stop at the Hickory Tavern School to see the last school-operated cannery in SC. Lunch will be sponsored by Vulcan Materials, Inc. and the Laurens County council. Some door prizes will be awarded there.

We are then off to see one of the largest beef farming operations in SC at the J. S. (Doc) Hendrick's beef farm. You will be interested to see the practices used here. The tour will end at the conclusion of visiting Parks Seed Company. This is a nation-wide and world-wide seed shipping company. Their inventory is amazing. If you have never been to a Summer Tour before, this would be a good time to bring the family for a weekend of interesting sights, fun, and fellowship.

- continued -



- To Young Farmers -

At the Summer Tour, the SC Association of Young Farmers will be kicking off a state-wide raffle for a 300cc Kawasaki 4-wheeler. We hope to sell enough tickets to help finance the upcoming National Institute that SC will host in 1995.

Chapters not represented at the Summer Tour will receive tickets and information following the tour. This is the first time the association has done a raffle and we hope that every chapter will do their share. The National Institute is a major event and

it will take every chapter in this state participating to make it a success. If your chapter has not been asked to help in some way, feel free to volunteer your services. We will need all the help we can get. I know that "together we can." 🐾

And now...

## A Word from the President



*Hey, this guy ought to be in politics! State FFA President Patrick Stone confers with the team from Edisto High at a recent contest.*

The future can sometimes conjure eerie thoughts in our minds. Thoughts of where we'll live, the type of job we'll have, and the amount of money we'll earn. High school students have even more to think about: whether to go on to college or a career; and if a college, which; or if a job, where? Indeed, simply making a decision doesn't depend on what you want, it depends on what the company or college wants. So the question becomes "what do they look for?"

These institutions have something in common—they each look for the well-rounded applicants. The fact is you can be academic, you can be athletic, but to have a sure advantage over your competition, you must possess leadership.

Again, a problem arises: Are you a

leader? If you're not, how do you become one? I'll simply state what I learned after my freshman year of high school at the National FFA Washington Conference Program: **Leaders aren't Born, they're Made!**

In fact, the National FFA organization not only talks about it, they enforce it. From public speaking contests, to leadership workshops such as MFE and WCP, to officer positions and duties, to meetings and sessions at State and National Conventions, the FFA organization offers several opportunities to find, develop, and hone your leadership skills...opportunities that few students other than FFA members have access to...opportunities that could make the difference between a person earning minimum wage to that person

having his own office in a company.

Most people aren't even offered the opportunity to advance, but you as FFA members do. The first step is to become involved! Whether it's competing in a contest, attending camps or workshops, or becoming an officer; to become a leader, a person must at least try.

Yet another problem arises: Do you have the potential to win? Do you have the potential to become a leader? There is no doubt of a direct relationship between being a winner and being a leader. The reason is that when they compete, when they go after some goal, they go after it with enthusiasm. Leaders not only have the desire but the drive and dedication to overcome the obstacles in their path. If they compete in a contest, a leader will practice, practice, practice in order to have the edge. Leaders believe that what they're doing deserves the investment of all their energies. If a person competes in a public speaking contest, more times than not, the winner will be the one who wanted to win the most—because that person invested the most time and energy, because he was the most enthusiastic, and because he wanted to achieve his goal passionately. In order to become a leader, **you must want to become a leader!**

Again there is a problem: Is it really worth the trouble? It depends on what you think of the greatest gift the FFA and leadership can give us. A **CHOICE**. A choice for which college you want to go to, a choice of what type of job you want, a choice of what car to drive and what clothes to wear. You might not want a mansion, fancy cars, or to travel from country to country, but at least you'll have a **choice**.

There's a lot more to learn and a lot more to do, but all it really takes is for you to want to change your future. Your future doesn't have to be dim with a few choices, but through leadership you can have a choice of the brightest of all possible futures. 🐾



# Respect Earns Scholarship For Davis

Chesterfield High School Senior Dale Davis has earned a full scholarship to Howard Community College in Big Springs, Texas for Respect and his many years of hard work. Not respect for anyone, mind you, but for Respect, the eight year old gelding who will also be attending college with this very special senior.

The son of Avery and Carolyn Davis, Dale has been involved in rodeo since he was nine years old. Now, nine years later, the sport has paid off for him in the form of a college education. But why would he choose to move halfway across the country to go to school? "Ever since I was little, I always have wanted to live in Texas. There's just something about it that I've always liked," he explains. "A lot of schools have rodeo scholarships, and I looked into one in Oklahoma, but I really wanted to go to Texas."



*Scholarship recipients Dale Davis and Respect will attend school in Texas in the fall.*

With his record of achievements, any school would have jumped at the chance to have Davis attend. His list of titles includes the State Champion Bull Rider (two years in a row, by the way), the Saddle Bronc Riding Champion, the

Reserve Steer Wrestling Champion, and the All-Around Champion at last year's state contest. Chesterfield FFA Advisor Olin Coskrey says the Southwestern Texas school is getting a real gem in its soon-to-be freshman. "He really has been a pleasure to teach," brags Coskrey of his current FFA Chapter President. "He's been a big help to me over the last three years and I'm certainly going to miss him."

Davis (and Respect) leave for Howard on August 20th after competing in the South Carolina Rodeo Championship from June 11th through the 13th. He plans to major in Wildlife/Forestry Management and says he "would like to come back and work on a refuge one day." There was no word on a major for Respect, but you can be assured that both will be successful throughout their college careers and beyond. 🐾

## The Brightest And Best

If anyone is looking for a role model for young women, they should look no further. Clemson University has got one in Lake View native Tracie Denise Cummings, the 1992-1993 Outstanding Sophomore in Agricultural Education.



*Tracie spends much of her time studying, which is made easier by the many computers on campus.*

Although agriculture is generally thought of as a male-dominated field, this 20-year-old is turning that theory into a mere myth through her many awards and achievements, which include the Gamma Sigma Delta (Agriculture Honor Society) Sophomore Scholarship, the Black Student of Promise award two years

running, the President's List, and the FFA Foundation Scholarship Award. She also is a member of the Alpha Zeta National Honorary Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and other Related Sciences).

As the daughter of educators Mr. and Mrs. Jahue Cummings, Tracie Cummings has always known the value of education. So of course it was just natural that she succeed at Clemson. Her high school record is similarly impressive and includes the title "Valedictorian" beside her name. It would seem, then, that Cummings

could have gone into virtually any field and performed to her normal level of excellence. However, like most girls, her heart belonged to Daddy and his chosen profession of agricultural education.

"My father, whom I idolize, has taught vocational agriculture for 25 years," says this very dedicated student.



"I knew early on that I was destined to walk in my father's footsteps, or at least try to emulate him. I may never achieve the degree of excellence my dad has; but I do share his high regard for the field of agriculture."

One thing her father stressed to Cummings was the need to take agriculture classes throughout her four years of high school. This led her to membership in the Lake View FFA, an association she now looks back on with fond memories. One of her favorites is her participation as the only female on the Ag Mechanics team and her quest for the respect of her male teammates. "The nervous energy with which I lit the welding torch, almost causing the entire building to explode, still makes me laugh," she remembers. "That is one experience I will never forget, nor will those guys forget that my individual score card was so far above theirs that I put them to shame," jokes Cummings.

In the little spare time that she does have outside the classroom, Tracie Cummings enjoys reading, gymnastics, working with young people, participation in community activities, and she says "of course, shopping." She also enjoys spending time with her younger brother, Tony, who is a rising eighth grader. It's probably a good bet that she'll encourage him to join FFA, just as her father encouraged her to do the same. "Both high school and college chapters of FFA encourage each member to maximize his/her potentials and build character beyond reproach." 🐾

## Latta Students Defy Mother Nature To Take Soils Crown

Twenty FFA teams from across the state braved what became known as "The Storm of the Century" on Saturday, March 13th, at the 38th Annual State FFA Soil Identification and Land Treatment Meet held in Florence. On the line was the right to represent the state at the National Land Judging Contest held May 5th through 7th in Oklahoma City, OK.

Not even Willard Scott could have predicted the snow that would blanket the state, forcing some teams to travel to Florence a day early, and others to stay in town overnight. However, FFA students proved to be hearty souls, as they defied the elements to fight for a free trip to the land of the Sooners.

When all was said and done (and all were warm and dry inside the Pee Dee Research and Education Center), it was the group from Latta High School who had come out on top, with a score of 641 out of a possible 720. Members of this outstanding team were Paul Long, Sherry Carter, Michelle Jackson, Kelly Hyatt and their advisor Keith Cox.

The students from Abbeville weren't far behind their counterparts from Latta with 635 points. Each of

these two teams received \$ 1,200 to cover travel expenses, and was presented with a plaque to commemorate the achievement. The winning teams in each district also received a plaque for high scores. The "top district dogs" were Abbeville [District I], Lexington ATC [District II]; Latta [District III]; and Wagener-Salley [District IV].

The individual honorees weren't without compensation for their hard work, either. In first place was Stoney Oswald of Wagner Salley, who compiled an almost perfect score of 232 of 240 possible points. Oswald received \$ 450 for his trip to the National FFA Convention held in Kansas City. Close on his heels was Carter Lawson of Abbeville, who tallied 228 points and received an engraved gold watch.

The event is sponsored annually by Carolina Power and Light Company, Duke Power Company, South Carolina Electric and Gas Company, the South Carolina Conservation Districts Foundation, and the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts. The South Carolina Soil Conservation Service assists in the competition, as well. 🐾

## National FFA Week Celebrated

Each year, one week is set aside to celebrate the study of agricultural science and the contribution its students make to their communities. These five days, otherwise known as National FFA Week, offer FFA chapters the unique opportunity to introduce the "Spirit of Leadership" to those unfamiliar with the personal development that FFA gives each of its members.

Some activities conducted nationally (FFA'ers take note: your chapter could do the same things next year) are community blood drives, agricultural career days, FFA food drives, agricultural displays at shopping centers, FFA dances (tickets are

sold to non-members, too), teacher appreciation days, and charity fund raisers. Also, several groups sponsored speeches by governmental officials, and guided tours through the agricultural facility found on their campuses.

National FFA Week 1993 was held February 22nd through 26th and several South Carolina schools participated in the celebration. One such chapter is found in Gilbert, where FFA students arose long before dawn to prepare a feast for a king (or at least the school's many teachers!). "The kids really work hard on this, and the teachers seem to appreciate it," said advisor Jack Cunningham. "It's become

an annual event at the school...one everyone looks forward to each year."

Another chapter active in its community during this time was the Lamar High School FFA, which held its Parent-Member Banquet on March 4th. A delicious Bar-Be-Que buffet dinner was held in the school's cafeteria, after which the agricultural department held an open house to "show off" all that the students had accomplished throughout the year. "Granted, this event is designed to let the parents see all that their children learn in the classroom, but it's also a lot of fun for everyone involved," explained Al Jeffords, Lamar FFA Advisor. 🐾



# Beaufort-Jasper Program Right "On Course"

When teacher Jack Kolb first arrived at the Beaufort-Jasper Educational Center twelve years ago, the agricultural education program centered mainly on floral arrangements and how to create them. Students at the center didn't know at that time if their new teacher would be an expert in this field of horticulture. Lucky for them, he wasn't.

"Frankly, that really wasn't an area I knew much about," laughs Kolb, "so I decided it would be best to find one that I was more familiar with. I looked around and saw that there were a number of golf courses around Beaufort and Hilton Head; therefore, there would be a need for golf course superintendents. That's really how the whole program got started."

What has evolved from that point, however, is more than a few classes in golf course technology. Kolb realized that the best place to learn about the care of a course is on the course itself. With the support of the school's administration, he set off in search of funding for his very own golf course to be located right on the campus of the educational center.

"It took several years and we ran into a lot of snags, but we finally did it," says this outstanding teacher, as he surveys his par-3 course. "We went to several golf courses in the area, asking for donations and advice. We had a wonderful response from all we approached; but the clincher was a \$ 5,000 donation from Callawassie, a club here in the area. That one really got it off the ground."

From there, it seemed everyone got into the act of helping to build this very special project. Simmons Irrigation in Walterboro sold the school supplies at cost. Beaufort County, unable to provide money, donated the heavy equipment and labor needed for construction. And world-

renowned architect Tom Fazio, who was developing a course at Callawassie at the time, designed the layout for the three holes that now challenge students and area golfers.

Although the course exists to give students hands-on experience, it is open to all duffers from the community at no charge. "We now have three par-3 holes (the longest of which is 150 yards) that wrap around a pond complete with sand traps," explains Kolb. "We also built three tee boxes, so if you play around three times, you can get in nine holes."

The project has gotten high marks from administrators in both the county and the state for its unique ability to give

students practical experience. Says Beaufort-Jasper principal Donald Bateman, "The golf course technology classes are definitely an asset to the school. We have 45 to 50 golf courses in the area and the number keeps getting larger; therefore, it is definitely an up and coming field in this area. Plus, it [the golf course technology field] even branches off into other areas such as landscape and horticulture."

Adds the mastermind behind the course, "The kids really enjoy it. Many of them spend part of their days in Beaufort and Hilton Head using what they learn here on the bigger courses like Sea Pines and Dataw." Kolb is obviously proud of



(Top) A scenic view of Beaufort-Jasper's three hole golf course.



(Left) Chris Seloske operates the greens mower on a sunny day in the Lowcountry.



all that his students accomplish outside the classroom. "Their jobs 'in the field' prove that they can stick in there through the good and the bad, and I think that indicates a trait that you don't find everyday."

Kolb insists that his game has not improved with the addition of this outdoor playground and explains that, just like their larger neighbors on Hilton Head, The Beaufort-Jasper Educational Center "links" require constant attention. "Right now, we are getting ready to go in and do maintenance work on the irrigation system," says Jack Kolb as he directs students in proper mowing techniques. "It really is an on-going learning experience." 🐾



Flags from area courses that participate in Beaufort's work programs hang in the agriculture classroom.

## Ware Shoals Receives A "Pleasant" Welcome

On May 8th, the FFA students at Pleasant Hill High School welcomed the annual State Forestry Competition to its campus. Several teams from across the state made the trip to Pleasant Hill for a day of testing in several areas of the forestry industry.

Once all the pleasantries were exchanged and all visiting students were officially welcomed Pleasant Hill FFA advisor Steve McGaha and State FFA President Patrick Stone, the contest was

underway. And although they were gracious hosts, the team from Pleasant Hill proved to be quite competitive in what was a tight race to the finish line.

When all the dust had settled, however, it was the Ware Shoals FFA team who had come out on top, receiving 1345 points for their efforts. Only three points behind was the "home team" from Pleasant Hill, which garnered 1342 total points. Edisto High School was the

- continued on page 9 -



The State Forestry contest Champs... Ware Shoals High School!



Gracious hosts were the students from Pleasant Hill, runners-up for the trip to Kansas City.



# When Wildfire Strikes Home

*Editor's Note: The following is a story submitted by the South Carolina Forestry Commission regarding the outbreak of several wildfires that destroyed many homes and much of our state's valuable woodlands.*

Wednesday, March 10, 1993, was a beautiful spring day in South Carolina. The weather was bright and clear, the temperature was in the seventies...not just a beautiful day—a perfect day. Those who could spent the day outdoors, to the envy of those confined by work or school.

Before this perfect day was over, some of those South Carolinians would be homeless and scores more would be trembling in fear. For on this perfect day, wildfire struck home across South Carolina, reducing mobile homes, houses, barns, and vehicles to smoking rubble.

From mid-morning until after dark on March 10, firefighters raced from one crisis to another. Traffic came to a standstill on busy roads occluded by smoke and choked with emergency vehicles. Forest firefighters pushed their bulldozers to the limit, working to cut off the flames before they reached occupied homes. Fire Departments pulled hoses and faced the flames on the ground. Aerial tankers bombarded the flames with water from above. Heroic efforts, remarkably successful...but sometimes even that was not enough.

There is no accurate tally of the number of homes that were lost, but it is certain that at least ten were destroyed, many damaged, and at least a hundred threatened. More than thirty barns and outbuildings were burned to the ground, and almost 8,000 acres of forest land were



*Forest firefighters had their hands full on March 10th when several wildfires broke out across the state.*

blackened on what started out to be the perfect day.

In South Carolina, we are not accustomed to wildfires whose flames lick the very doorposts of our homes. That's something that only happens in California, and we watch it in the comfort of our living rooms from a safe distance of about two thousand miles.

So what happened on March 10 that brought many South Carolinians to a first-person encounter with wildfire? A combination of factors, said Ken Cabe, the Forestry Commission's fire prevention officer. "High winds and low humidities allowed fires to spread quickly," he said. "But almost invariably, the fires started through the carelessness or callousness of people."

About 98% of all wildfires in South Carolina are caused by people and their activities, said Cabe. Forestry Commission records from March 10 show that careless burning and woods arson were the primary fire causes. We can't always

protect people from themselves," said Cabe. "It's time for the citizens of South Carolina to take charge and do something about the cause of this problem."

Cabe says that people are generally reluctant to provide information about careless burning, and even more reluctant to report woods arson. "I believe most folks would get real angry if someone threatened to take their home," he said. "The threats posed by careless burning and woods arson are just as real, just not as personal."

Under South Carolina's forest fire protection laws it is a misdemeanor not to take certain precautions when burning outdoors. The maximum fine for unsafe burning is \$ 100. It is also a misdemeanor to let a fire escape to someone else's property; the fine for this goes up to \$ 200. "That's pretty cheap for endangering life and property," said Cabe, "and it probably isn't much of a deterrent. Shooting ducks out of season carries a bigger penalty."

Deliberate woods arson is a different



matter, but it is a difficult crime to prosecute, requiring laborious and time consuming investigation. "Sometimes we can't find adequate physical evidence," Cabe said. "A lot of our cases are developed from leads supplied by the public." Investigators welcome any information that could have a bearing on a woods arson case—descriptions of vehicles or persons observed near the fire scene, license plate numbers, and eyewitness accounts of the arson itself. Woods arson is punishable by fines of up to \$5,000 and imprisonment for up to five years.

Information can be reported anonymously by calling the Arson Hot Line, 1-800-92-ARSON. This line is sponsored by the Independent Insurance Agents of South Carolina, and offers rewards for information leading to arrest and indictment.

The weather on March 10 was not a rare fluke of nature, said Cabe. It will happen again, so what can be done to prevent your home from becoming a statistic?

#### Cabe offered the following suggestions:

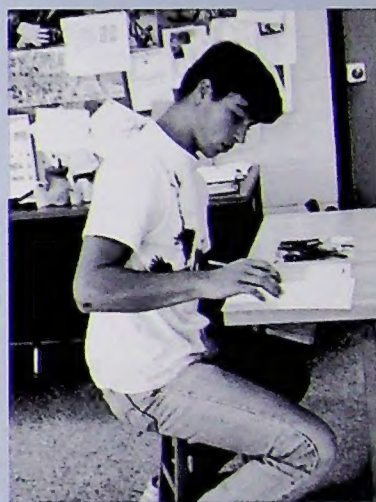
- Keep your roof free of accumulated leaves and pine straw
- Enclose the crawl space under your home with underpinning or metal skirts
- Make sure the eaves of your house are fully boxed—Screen all outside vents with fine metal mesh
- Clear any branches hanging over your home.
- Keep grass cut short within 50 feet of your home—Don't store firewood, building materials, or gasoline cans under porches or decks
- Keep a garden hose attached and handy—Avoid using highly flammable shrubs in landscaping near your home.

Cabe said that homeowners desiring more information about home protection should contact their local Forestry Commission office or Fire Department. A brochure and videotape, both entitled Your Home in the Line of Fire, are available to individuals and civic groups. 🐾

- continued from page 7 -



Third place went to these students from Edisto.



(Left) State FFA President Patrick Stone traveled a few miles from his home to address the contest participants.

(Above) Written examinations were the hardest part of the contest according to many students.

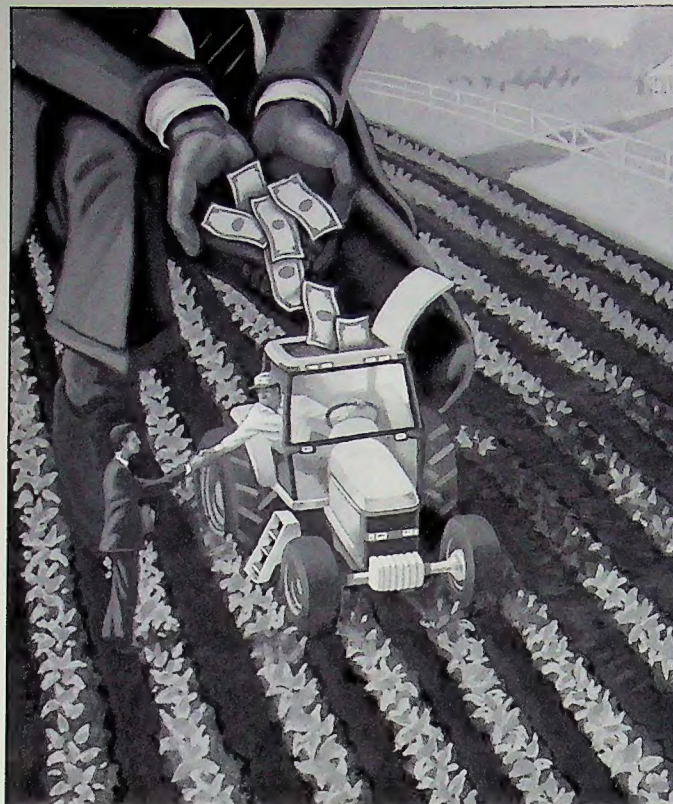
third place finisher with a score of 790. For their efforts, Lee Wood, Rafe Gambrell, Brannon Babb and Patrick Jackson of Ware Shoals will all receive an expense paid trip to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, where they will participate in the National Forestry Contest.

Wood and Gambrell also took individual honors, as they placed second and third respectively in the overall competition. However, the top dog was

Pleasant Hill's Corey Owens who racked up a total of 537 points in the various testing areas.

The students were graded in General Knowledge/Management, Forest Business Management Problems, Tree Identification, Equipment Identifications, Tree Measurement, Timber Stand Improvements, Chainsaw Part Identification/Safety, and Tree/Forest Disorders. Members of the State Forestry Commission assisted with the testing. 🐾





## **BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE. Small Enough To Care.**

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